

Declare Yourself an Artist

Embody your future artistic identity—now. Create a rite of passage that lets the world know “I am an artist. This is my art.”

Jeff London encouraged us to “Invite the world to witness our dream-in-progress.” When he led his famous Land Yacht parade, he put himself in the driving seat as an artist and invited many others to awaken their inner artists.

You are an artist, at the moment that you say so. No matter your artistic development—this is a culmination of the skills, experiments, and reflections to date, as well as an act of (re)claiming your artistic identity.

Declaring yourself as an artist takes time to unfold. Let it breathe. Daydream while riding your bike, taking a shower, and wandering about. Let ideas emerge in their own way—flashes of memory, sparks of boldness, whispers of the future.



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What you'll need

Audacity and time. Set aside a couple months. You're making a showcase for the world, and for yourself. This should feel like a substantial work of art for you. So pack your journal, your courage, and your favorite art supplies.

Your future in art

Allow yourself to dream of a positive artistic future for yourself. Set your mind free to wander—let your inner artist emerge. Put yourself in a place that inspires you. Keep your journal beside your bed for evening questions and morning insights. Immerse yourself in your senses of your future state:

- **See:** Picture your future surroundings—colors, light, and space. Notice your art and what the world looks like through your eyes.
- **Hear:** Listen for the sounds of your future life—voices, nature, city, or silence. Notice the sound of you creating art.
- **Smell:** Imagine the scents that define that moment—the studio air, paint, or books. Notice the scent of your creation.
- **Touch:** Feel textures around you—clothes, tools, artistic materials, or your studio. Notice how your art feels in your hands.
- **Taste:** Envision flavors that ground you there—tea, bread, or air itself. Notice your thirst to create and the taste of your art materials.

Make a drawing of yourself in the future—with your five senses. Illustrate yourself making art, and the headlines about what you've become known for. What is it in you that is you and no one else?

Design your ritual

Consider the public moment. Which ideas could live in the open? How could your art have a public face? What does the world need of you? Which ideas let people witness your declaration?

Make art of it

This is the real work—it may take weeks, a month, or a long chapter in your life. Trust the time it needs. Shape your art in sync with the ritual you will do.

- **Listen for the questions.** What do you long to give the world? What beauty or truth do you see that others miss? What is your art asking to be?
- **Let possibilities tumble out.** Jot down ideas, sketch, daydream. Outrageous is good, so is simple—all are seeds. When one idea feels alive, commit to it.
- **Make something tangible.** A symbol of your art and self in the future.
- **Make it collaborative.** This is about you and your vision, but including some helpers and advisers will help you scale up your impact.

Unveil your ritual

Bring your art into the world. Let others see it—live and in media. You may create in public or reveal a secret. Maybe you involve people in the creating or the unboxing. This is more than just an exhibit—it is your proclamation telling the world: “I’m an artist. See what I see. This is my art.”

Share your story

What do you make of public-private boundaries? How has your audience influenced you? Which feedback has helped you grow? How do you protect yourself from external pressure? How have you felt through the phases? What has your endeavor taught you? What does this say about you? What now becomes possible?

Give a glimpse
of your dream